



# CITY OF COVINGTON

## Office of the City Solicitor

June 2, 2026

Frank M. Schultz  
City Solicitor

**Via Mail and Email**

Sebastian Torres  
Dir. of External  
Affairs & Senior  
Counsel

Attn: Frank Hulefeld  
Madison Theater  
830 Willard Street  
Covington, KY 41011

Starr M. Ford, IV  
Senior Asst. City  
Solicitor

Frank@madisontheater.com

Rutger L. Dole  
Asst. City  
Solicitor

**RE: NOTICE of Complaint Received and Hearing**

Lydia Northcutt  
Legal Asst. &  
ABC Admin.

Mr. Hulefeld,

Our office has received reports regarding a significant public safety incident that occurred on Saturday, May 30, 2026 at Madison Theater, located at 730 Madison Avenue.

The City of Covington values and supports its local businesses and entertainment venues. All license holders, however, are responsible for ensuring that their establishments operate safely and in compliance with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, permit conditions, and occupancy requirements. As the licensee and operator of the establishment, you are responsible for maintaining order on the licensed premises and for ensuring that events conducted at your venue do not create conditions that threaten public safety.

The incident on May 30 raised concerns regarding crowd management, occupancy compliance, fire safety, security measures, and the overall ability of the establishment to safely accommodate patrons attending the event. The City is particularly concerned by reports indicating that patrons were forcing themselves behind bar stations to steal alcohol, attendance may have exceeded the approved occupancy limit, and exits were blocked. Furthermore, the Covington Police department was required to shut down the 700 block of Madison Avenue for a period of time due to patrons of Madison Avenue gathering in the street and refusing to leave/disburse until police utilized pepper balls.

Please be advised of the following obligations:

- KRS 244.085: Licensees shall not permit their premises to become disorderly due to violence, fighting, excessive noise, or other hazardous conditions.

Failure to properly manage and maintain an orderly establishment may result in administrative and legal consequences. The Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) Administrator has the authority to suspend or revoke a license for noncompliance. Under KRS 243.500 (Revocation of License), a license may be suspended or revoked for violations of Kentucky Revised Statutes Chapters 241 through 244, including maintaining disorderly premises, permitting violent activity, or creating a public nuisance. Additionally, pursuant to KRS 244.990, license holders may be subject to criminal penalties for permitting disorderly conduct on their premises.

In addition, the ABC Administrator has the authority to suspend or revoke a license pursuant to Covington Code of Ordinances 112.06(K)(1)(g): public nuisance.

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Given the significant public safety concerns arising from this incident, the City intends to schedule a hearing to review the operations of Madison Theater as they relate to May 30's event and future events held at the venue, and to determine if any action should be taken against Licensee. This review will include, but not be limited to, event planning procedures, security staffing, crowd control measures, fire safety, occupancy compliance, emergency response coordination, and other factors affecting public safety. The City may require additional operational measures or conditions to be implemented prior to the approval or conduct of future large-scale events.

### **NOTICE OF HEARING**

A public hearing before the ABC Board to review the alcoholic beverage license issued to Madison Theater shall be conducted:

**Date: Thursday, June 18, 2026**

**Time: 10:00 A.M.**

**Location: Covington City Hall, Commission Chambers**

If this date and time does not work with you, please let me know and we can establish a time that works for all parties.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss this matter further, please do not hesitate to contact our office.

Sincerely,



Lydia Northcutt  
City of Covington Legal Assistant/  
ABC Administrator  
20 W Pike Street  
Covington, KY 41011  
Lydia.northcutt@covingtonky.gov

